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PROGRAM CBS Evening News STATION WDVM-TV
CBS Network

DATE March 23, 1983 7:00 PM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Investigation the Plot Against the Pope

DAN RATHER: The Pope was the target of an assassination attempt in May 1981, and there's been speculation that it was because of his strong support for solidarity.

According to this speculation, the man charged with the shooting was working for Bulgaria which, in turn, was following orders from Moscow.

Last November, Rome police arrested a Bulgarian state airline official suspected of being an accomplice in that attack.

Richard Roth has more about this.

RICHARD ROTH: Four months after Sergi Antonov was arrested in Rome and accused of being the Bulgarian Connection in the attack on the Pope, Bulgarian officials here are saying he is sick and confused. The comment by embassy officials was supported by statements saying, "Sergi has headaches. There is a weakening of his memory, and symptoms of serious illness."

Bulgarian officials wanted to counter reports that Antonov's claim of innocence has been seriously damaged by contradictions and errors in his testimony to Italian authorities. But, other than his lawyer, the only man that has met Antonov in prison recently and would discuss the meeting says Antonov is a liar.